



DIA is an IB
World School



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



DIA is a regular
member of CIS

DIAlogue 56

6 November, 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

★ FORTHCOMING DATES ★

Sunday, 9 November	-	Professional Development Day (No Classes)
Wednesday, 12 November	-	Book Sale
Sunday, 16 November	-	Parent Information Session - Elementary School
Tuesday, 18 November to Saturday, 22 November	-	THIMUN Singapore - Model United Nations
Wednesday, 26 November	-	Elementary School Winter concert
Thursday, 27 November	-	MYP and DP 1 reports issued
Thursday, 27 November	-	Winter Souk
Thursday, 27 November	-	End of Term I
Sunday, 30 November	-	Start of Term II
Sunday, 30 November	-	Secondary School Musical Concert
Monday, 1 December	-	Secondary School Winter Disco
Monday, 1 December	-	PYP reports issued
Tuesday, 2 and Wednesday, 3 December	-	UAE National Day
Thursday, 4 December	-	DIA holiday
Sunday, 7 to Wednesday, 10 December	-	Arafat and Eid Al Adha
Thursday, 11 December	-	DIA holiday
Thursday, 11 December to Sunday, 14 December	-	HMUN Harvard - Model United Nations
Sunday, 14 December	-	School resumes
Sunday, 14 December to Thursday, 18 December	-	Week Without Walls - Year 7 to Year 11
Sunday, 14 December to Thursday, 18 December	-	DP 1 and 2 internal assessment and training workshops
Friday, 19 December to Saturday, 3 January	-	Winter break
Sunday, 4 January	-	School resumes
Sunday, 11 January	-	Elementary School Professional Development Day (No classes Elementary School)
Tuesday, 13 to Thursday, 15 January	-	KG1 to Year 6 Sports Day
Wednesday, 14 to Monday, 19 January	-	MYP Mid-Year Exams
Wednesday, 14 to Wednesday, 21 January	-	Year 12, DP 1 Mid-Year Exams

★ IMPORTANT NOTES ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS ★

FIRE EVACUATION DRILL

As a part of our fire and safety preparations a number of fire evacuation drills will take place over the year. Our first drill will take place early next week. This can be an upsetting experience

for some children, particularly the younger students, due to the loud sirens and the number of children gathering in one place. However, it is necessary to practice evacuating the building in a safe and organised way so that everyone is prepared in case of an emergency. Please talk to your children and explain this is nothing to be afraid of and is something that should be taken seriously.

BOOK SALE, 12 NOVEMBER

With the last two weeks being full of events and activities we have decided to postpone the second hand book sale by the Elementary School Council by another week. The date for this is now going to be **Wednesday, 12 November.**



Please do remind your children to bring in AED 5/- on Wednesday if you want to buy a book, and continue to send in your second hand books.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Elementary School Council members

PADIA BAKE SALE, 13 NOVEMBER AT 11:00 AM TO 3:30 PM



- ❖ Parents please bring or send by 10:00 am
- ❖ Home baked goodies for PADIA to sell
 - Biscuits, Cookies, Donuts, Brownies, Sausage Rolls, Cakes, Muffins, Samosas, Pancakes, Savoury Snacks, Hot Dogs, Pies, Finger Foods.
 - Your Home Country Specialty.
 - Please do not send perishable food, cream etc and NO nuts please.



❖ **MONEY**



- The children will visit the Bake Stall in their class breaks, with their teacher, so please give your child a small amount of money to bring to school to buy a treat.
- Come and buy some goodies for you and your children to eat at home.
- Items will be available from as little as AED 1 up to AED 30.
- ❖ **FOOD DELIVERY**
 - Please bring all food in or on disposable containers such as foil trays or disposable plates.
 - Early delivery to the PADIA office Room PS 047 Elementary school (opposite Nurses' office).
 - Please slice cakes into single serve portions.
 - Items will be priced by PADIA.
 - Napkins and plates will be provided by PADIA.

Thank you for your kind support and lovely effort!

PADIA

padiadubai@hotmail.com

Room No. PS 047

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 16 NOVEMBER

The next information session in the Elementary School will be about Assessment and Reporting at DIA. This session will be held on Sunday, 16 November in the Multimedia room, Room No. 40 8:00 am - 9:00 am, and applies to parents with children in KG1 to Year 6, inclusive.

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME REPORTS, 27 NOVEMBER

The first MYP report shall be issued to Year 7 - Year 11 students on 27 November which is the end of Term 1. The first term report is an **Approaches to Learning (ATL)** report which focuses on organisational and learning skills. There will also be subject criteria marks and subject MYP grades. The Term 2 and 3 reports are narrative reports, this means there will be teacher comments about the progress of your child. There are also subject criteria marks and subject MYP grades in these reports.



A big "THANK YOU" to those parents who attended the **MYP Assessment and Reporting morning** on Thursday, 30 October at 9:00 am. If you missed the meeting the presentation and handout is now available on the DIA website.

Best wishes,
Helen Dowse, MYP Coordinator
helend@diadubai.com

REMINDER TO ALL CHILDREN LEAVING DIA BEFORE TERM 2.

If you are intending to relocate overseas or to a local school in Dubai, at the end of the Term I, please be reminded that a withdrawal form needs to be submitted urgently to our admissions office to ensure that all documentation and applicable refunds will be presented to you on your child/ren's last day with us at DIA. No documentation or refunds (*subject to our admission policy*) will be released without this formal notice.

DIA Admissions
admissions@diadubai.com

SHEIKH ZAYED UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL PRACTICUM

Over the next seven weeks thirteen students from Sheik Zayed University College of Education are participating in an educational practicum at DIA. These students are placed with teachers whom they meet twice a week. The students are engaged in making observations about all aspects of teaching. They will eventually present two lessons to the DIA students they are working with. The programme is under the direction of Rabaa Alsumaiti and Dr. Saroj Thapa. Two supervisors are also present each visiting day to make their own observations of how the students are progressing.

★ RECENT HAPPENING ★

DUBAI CARES MILLION BOOK CHALLENGE : KG1 TO YEAR 9 **SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER - 16 NOVEMBER**

DIA is taking part in the **Dubai Cares Million Book Challenge**.

The **Million Book Challenge** began at noon on Sunday, 2 November, 2008 and will end at noon on Sunday, 16 November, 2008.



Students in Dubai have been challenged to read 1 million books in two weeks. For every book a student reads, Dubai Cares will purchase a new book for children around the world who do not have access to books.

Books that count:

- Books read before and after school and during break time.
- Books read aloud, either by a parent to their child, or by an older child to a younger brother or sister.
- Books read in **different languages**.
- Books read on the weekends - there are three weekends during the challenge so be sure to make the best use of these days.
- Books read on the bus, in the car, on an airplane, by the pool, etc.

Books that do not count:

- Books that you finished reading before the official start of the Million Book Challenge
- Books that are too simple for your reading level.
- Books that you read more than once during the challenge.
- Books that you **read instead of doing your homework**

Students need to keep an accurate daily record of their reading. Parents will need to sign off on each book title students include in their Million Book Tracker to verify that they have read the book. Students need to bring their Million Book Tracker to school **every day** to show their **Home Room Teacher** how many books they have read.



DIA is excited to be part of the Dubai Cares Reading Challenge program. Here you see Year 1 CG taking a moment to enjoy reading and being read to while striving to do their part to help Dubai Cares reach their goal of one million books read.

AL NOOR STUDENTS VISIT DIA, 29 OCTOBER 2008

Staff and 4 students of Al Noor, the centre for children with special needs, recently visited Dubai International Academy (DIA) in an attempt to incorporate larger sections of society in a communication initiative for school-going children with special needs.



The visit was part of Al Noor's campaign to create awareness about the concept of Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC) and encouraging interaction between AAC users and the community at large. The campaign targets young people and aims to give participants from the community the opportunity to have a hands-on "communication experience" with the AAC tool and its user."

AAC helps people with complex communication needs to express their wants, requests, opinions, and exchange information effectively, thus enabling them to better integrate into the community. This may be done through simple communication boards, or high tech specialist equipment. Since communication is a two way process, it is important for



everybody within the community who could potentially be a communication partner, to know about AAC.

The Al Noor staff made a presentation on AAC to students of DIA, during which they explained the effective ways of communicating to children with special needs. The presentation had a strong and definitive impact on the young minds.

YEAR 3 STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT SIGNS

Ms. Cathy Grigg was our knowledgeable guest speaker who demonstrated to Year 3 American Sign Language. The students learnt "signing" as an unspoken means of communication and of its benefits. It was a truly interesting experience for the students.



Year 3 MK enjoyed their field trip to Madinat Jumeirah on 27 October to identify the different signs and symbols displayed, and their importance in our daily lives. The students' reflections showed their understanding of the variety of signs they saw. It was a truly informative trip that helped them in their inquiry.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART COMPETITION



On 26 October, The Ministry of Education launched an Art competition at the school. The topic was "Save Water". As Year 4 is currently dealing with water as their unit of inquiry, we felt it was appropriate to allow this year group to participate in the contest. The students had a great time and we have some great artwork to show!

This competition is open to all the kids in the age group of 6 years - 11 years. The entry forms are available with me in the art room. The entries must come back to school before the 8 November.

There are some great prizes to be won!!

Thank you to all our Year 4 teachers for all their support and great organisational skills!

Anupama Ramachandran
Art teacher, Elementary School

THE EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WORKSHOP, 28 - 29 OCTOBER

On the 28 and 29 October, a group of Year 7, 8 and 11 students attended the Emirates Environmental Group Workshop accompanied by Ms. Dowse. It was held in the Rashid School for Boys, and there were several schools that attended the workshop. We were not seated together; but were separated on to different tables so we could get to know other people and work

together in the different activities that were held for each lecture. There were four lectures: What is Green Living; Water and Energy Conservation; Indoor Air Quality; and Sustainable Schools.

The first lecture, "What is green living" was an interesting lecture with activities asking us to state what we thought green living meant. We also had to give a few examples of how we can live green. The second lecture "Water and Energy Conservation" had some amazing facts on how much water is wasted everyday without us being aware.



The first lecture after lunch was "Indoor Air Quality". It was about the air that comes out of air conditioning systems and mentioned what happens if AC filters are not clean and the effects on a person's health.

The last lecture was about "Sustainable Schools", and how different schools can do things to become green. One good idea was to have "green police", who walk around during break and see if all the computer monitors are off. Since schools use so many computers, the

green police would help

save a lot of energy. Another idea was to have our own vegetable garden. An additional idea was that students living in the same area, eg. The Lakes, could all meet at one point and walk to school together with a parent. This way, the safety of every child is ensured.



Overall, I think this was a very informative workshop. It was educational yet fun! Thank you Ms. Dowse for giving us the opportunity to attend this workshop.

Mitali Mirle, Year 8 E

DIA CELEBRATED UN DAY ON 23 OCTOBER

As you may be aware, DIA held our United Nations day in school on Thursday, 23 October. The day was an incredible success and a very informative report has been put together by our own student led press team, please see the following link:

http://www.diadubai.com/pdf/UN_Publication.pdf

GIRLS SOCCER VS AAG, 23 OCTOBER

Big applause once again to the girls soccer team. We had a match on Thursday, 23 October vs AAG. DIA's girls played very well and with one aim, making DIA Teachers and students proud of what they are achieving. The great news is that they won 14 -1 leaving no chance for AAG.

However, one thing the team and I are missing is the support of all of the DIA family - teachers, students, staff and parents. We would love to see you all on the field sometime, supporting the team and motivating the players.

BACK TO SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

About two weeks back there was an event held only for teenagers. It was a music festival called the Back to School Music Festival organized by CSM and GEMS. There were various categories,

Singing, Dancing and loads more - all for the youth. I took part in the composing competition where kids and teens all over the GCC could take part. You had to write a song with the theme 'Shout.Share.Live.Unite'. I've never composed a song before, I'm very musically inclined but composing was never something I really thought about. Not being in a GEMS school, I couldn't take part in anything else but composing. So I took a shot at it.

I composed a song that tells people to be themselves and to be who they want to be. The age group I was targeting for this kind of song is school kids and teens. Being in school, where everyone judges you on minor, insignificant things like how you dress and act, it's important to break out and just be who you really are. A few weeks later CSM called me and told me I'd won!

After that, I started to record my song and gave interviews. It was the most amazing experience ever, I got my fifteen minutes of fame!

I love music and being able to actually record in a studio and work on my 'own' song was amazing. Overall it was a great experience and I had a lot of fun.

You can also download the song from www.back2schoolfest.com [Go to the Compose It category!]

Tanika D'souza, Year 9

★ UPDATES ★

ONGOING ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Further to a request from a parent, other parents whose children come to school through The Lakes by Deema 4 should be aware that there is now heavy construction equipment working in this area, and those with younger children may wish to accompany them for the time being as an added precaution.

★ SPORTS FIXTURES ★

Friday, 7 November, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	-	DCC Swim meet @ ASD
Saturday, 8 November, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	-	DCC V U 18 Football Finals @ DAA
Saturday, 15 November, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	-	DCC JV U 16 Football Finals @ UAS
Monday, 17 November, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	-	U 14 Boys DIA vs ASD Football @ ASD
Monday, 17 November, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	-	U 14 Girls DIA vs ASD Football @ ASD

BASKETBALL TRYOUTS:

U14 Girls	-	Monday, 10 November - 2:35 pm - 3:35 pm - Coach Jonafe S. Jalos
U18 Boys	-	Monday, 10 November - 3:35 pm - 4:35 pm - Coach Jim Hildebrand
U16 Girls	-	Tuesday, 11 November - 2:35 pm - 3:35 pm - Coach Janice Smith
U18 Girls	-	Tuesday, 11 November - 3:35 pm - 4:35 pm - Coach Stephanie Young
U14 Boys	-	Wednesday, 12 November - 2:35 pm - 3:35 pm - Coach Jim Hildebrand
U16 Boys	-	Wednesday, 12 November - 3:35 pm - 4:45 pm - Coach Chris Young

COMMENT AND FEEDBACK

If you would like to comment or give feedback on any aspect of what is offered by Dubai International Academy, please do so at your convenience, using the e-mail address diafeedback@diadubai.com. We look forward to hearing from you.